المجلس الإسلامي
Islamic Council

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It is now a year since the military coup in Sudan overthrew the democratically elected government of Sayyid Sadiq al Mahdi, who is still under house arrest, and has still not been charged with any offence or brought to trial. He is not allowed family visits and has been denied necessary treatment for an eye condition.

Sadiq al Mahdi's son, Abberrahmane, a lieutenant in the army, is also under arrest with no charges brought. Reports from Sudan say that he has been persecuted and ill-treated and once was taken wounded to the military hospital in Omdurman after being beaten. His present whereabouts are unknown.

We believe that the treatment of Abberrahmane is a deliberate pressure on the former Prime Minister, and that he is being held for that reason only, and we are concerned that Sadiq al Mahdi himself is being held as a hostage to ensure the quiet of his many supporters and followers. The recent summary executions of the officers allegedly involved in an attempted coup against Lt General Omar al Bashir show the lengths to which he will go to retain power, and we are gravely worried for Sadiq al Mahdi's safety.

There is no legitimate reason for the military government to keep Sadiq al Mahdi under arrest - they have not charged him with any offence - and we appeal to you to put pressure on the current government to secure his immediate and unconditional release.

Yours sincerely,

Salem Azzam

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Secretary General

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14/6/90

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